

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for manufacturing carboxylic acid and amino acid or amino acid condensate reaction products, comprising the steps of:

mixing, in an aqueous system, at least one carboxylic acid selected from the group consisting of acetic acid, lactic acid, tartaric acid, citric acid, succinic acid, fumaric acid, caprylic acid, capric acid, lauric acid, palmitic acid, stearic acid, oleic acid, linoleic acid, pectin, pectin decomposition products, alginic acid, alginic acid decomposition products, and the sodium or potassium salts thereof with at least one amino acid or amino acid condensate selected from the group consisting of soy protein, zein, gluten, casein, whey protein, gelatin, and egg white albumin, and peptides and amino acids obtained from the decomposition thereof wherein the carboxylic acid is mixed with the amino acid or amino acid condensate at a ratio between 50:1 to 1:50; and

heating the mixture in an absence of a catalyst to a temperature greater than 105° C in a closed container capable of withstanding the pressure generated thereby until a carboxylic acid and amino acid or amino acid condensate reaction product is produced.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (withdrawn): A method for manufacturing surfactants, characterized in mixing carboxylic acids and amino acids or amino acid condensates under an aqueous system and heating to 100°C or more, less than 180°C without vaporizing the water away.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): Surfactants manufactured according to the method of claim 8.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): Surfactants as set forth in claim 9, containing compounds in which the N-terminals of amino acids or amino acid condensates are acid-amide bound with carboxylic acids.

Claim 11² (previously presented): The method for manufacturing carboxylic acid and amino acid or amino acid condensate reaction products according to claim 1, wherein N-terminals of the amino acid or amino acid condensate are acid-amide bound with the carboxylic acid after reaction.

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (canceled)

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Claim 14 (previously presented): The method for manufacturing carboxylic acid

and amino acid or amino acid condensate reaction products according to claim 1, wherein

the carboxylic acid is mixed with the amino acid or amino acid condensate at a ratio

between 10:1 to 1:10.

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Claim 15 (previously presented): The method for manufacturing carboxylic acid

and amino acid or amino acid condensate reaction products according to claim 1, wherein

the mixture is heated to a temperature as high as 120°C.